

April 17, 2007

Washington, D.C. - Yesterday, Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor) issued the following statement congratulating the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the nation's largest and oldest Greek-American organization, on its 85th anniversary.

"I'm proud to call myself an AHEPAN, a devoted member of the Tarpon Springs, George Washington Chapter #16," stated Bilirakis. "It has been AHEPA that has helped to assimilate and educate Greek immigrants, like my grandparents, as they arrived in America. I wish AHEPA President Gus J. James II and AHEPA continued success and at least another 85 years of fruitful educational, philanthropic, and civic endeavors."

Representative Bilirakis addressed the U.S. House of Representatives on April 16, 2007, during consideration of H. Con. Res. 71, legislation commemorating the 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. He outlined the long list of accomplishments AHEPA has achieved since its inception and highlighted AHEPA's patriotic endeavors such as raising more than \$253 million in U.S. War Bonds during World War II, helping restore the Statue of Liberty, and providing thousands of dollars during the 9/11 relief effort.

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